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A NEW BANDICOOT FROM IRAN

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In the collection of mammals brought back by the Legendre Iran Expedition is a series of 25 bandicoots, representing three distinct races: *Nesokia bailwardi* from the Main Kaleh Peninsula, a race of the *N. huttoni* group from the Turkman desert and two specimens representing an undescribed species from the eastern Elburz Mountains.

Nesokia legendrei, new species

Lengendre Bandicoot

TYPE.—No. 88861, Amer. Mus. Nat. Hist.; ♂, adult; Gouladah, a small village in the district of Bujnurd; alt. 3200 ft.; collector, G. G. Goodwin, November 10, 1938. The type is a skin and skull in good condition. Besides the type there is a semi-adult topotype with unworn molars.

GENERAL CHARACTERS.—A large, light-colored *Nesokia* with long, full, rather coarse pelage, about 15 mm. on back, mixed with uniform long, black semi-spinous guard hairs reaching a length of 50 mm. on rump. Skull, relatively long and narrow with large molars.

DESCRIPTION.—Upper parts pale cinnamon buff grading to almost cinnamon buff on head and shoulders, the hairs blackish mouse gray from base for about half their length, overlaid with evenly distributed long black guard hairs; sides of body, outer sides of fore and hind limbs pinkish buff; fore and hind feet sparsely covered with coarse mouse-gray hairs washed with buffy white. Nose and face mixed buff and black, the black hairs predominating; lips, chin and throat, buffy white; rest of under parts light buff, the dusky basal color of hairs showing through. Tail, blackish brown with barely perceptible short black flattened hairs.

SKULL.—Relatively long and narrow with large molars and short palatal foramina. Superorbital ridges thick and heavy, extending across parietals to occiput in two parallel straight lines; interparietal large; zygomata not expanded; bullae normal for the genus; in unworn dentition the topotype shows a distinct conule on the anterior inner side of the second molars and an inner and an outer conule on the anterior side of the third molars. These conules are not present in the unworn molars of either *N. bailwardi* or *N. huttoni* in the Legendre collection but are present in a skull of *Gunomys wardi* from Kashmir in the Museum collection.

MEASUREMENTS.—Type and topotype (immature) in parentheses, both males. Skin, measured in the field: total length, 395 (335); tail, 170 (140); hind foot including claws, 41 (40); ear from notch in dried skin 17.5 (16). Skull: condylo-incisive length 51 (44.5); basilar length 45 (39); zygomatic width 30 (27.3); interorbital constriction 6.7 (6.3); length of nasals 14.3 (12.6); width of nasals 4.8 (4.7). Alveolar length of upper molar series, 10.4 (8.9); greatest width of first molar 3.3 (3.1).

REMARKS.—*Nesokia legendrei* is readily recognized by its large size, pale color, long coarse pelage, relatively long tail and distinctive cranial characters. It is larger than *N. scullyi* from Yarkand with coarse instead of soft pelage; about equal in size to *N. bacheri* from Palestine but the tail is longer, skull proportionally longer, and differs in coloration from the latter. It is larger than *N. buxtoni* from Mesopotamia which is apparently a lowland form. Cabrera described *N. argyropus* on an individual female, specimen in spirits, from the Bakhtyari forest, 2500 feet elevation, Iran. Cranial characters and measurements not given. This species has 5 tubercles on the hind feet, a character which may be applicable to *N. legendrei.* Cabrera's specimen is however much smaller with forefeet covered with abundant thick hair. In the Gouladah specimens the hair on the forefeet is coarse and sparse. *Nesokia legendrei* is widely separated from *N. huttoni* and related forms, but is probably allied to *N. indica.*